



PRESS RELEASE

NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE

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Winter Wheat Reaches Record Yield

Idaho's 2005 winter wheat crop achieved a new record yield, surpassing the record yield of 90.0 bushels per acre set in 2000 and equaled in 2004, according to the National Agricultural Statistics Service. The state's all wheat production declined 1 percent from 2004 to 101 million bushels. The winter wheat yield, at 91.0 bushels per acre, is up 1.0 bushel from last year. Winter wheat production totaled 66.4 million bushels from 730,000 harvested acres, up 5 percent from last year's 63.0 million bushels. The 2005 winter wheat production is estimated to be 83 percent white and 17 percent red. Spring wheat yield, at 72.0 bushels per acre, is down 7.0 bushels from a year ago. Idaho's spring wheat production totaled 32.4 million bushels from 450,000 harvested acres, down 16 percent from 2004's 38.7 million bushels. The spring wheat crop is estimated to be 63 percent white and 37 percent hard red. Barley yield is estimated at 87.0 bushels per acre, down 5.0 bushels from last year's record high. Barley production totaled 52.2 million bushels from 600,000 harvested acres, 13 percent below 2004's production of 59.8 million bushels. Oat yield, at 64.0 bushels per acre, is down 8.0 bushels from a year ago and is the lowest yield on record since 1985. Oat production totaled 1.28 million bushels from 20,000 harvested acres. At this level, production is 11 percent below last year's 1.44 million bushels.

Nationally, all wheat production for 2005 totaled 2.10 billion bushels, down 3 percent from the previous forecast and from 2004's total production. Winter wheat production is estimated at 1.49 billion bushels, down 2 percent from the August 1 forecast, but just slightly below year ago. The U.S. yield is 44.4 bushels per acre, 0.9 bushel above last year's final yield. Acreage harvested for grain, at 33.7 million acres, is 2 percent lower than 2004. Other spring wheat production is estimated at 504 million bushels, down 9 percent from August's production forecast and 11 percent below a year ago. Harvested area is 13.6 million acres, down slightly from August, but up 3 percent from 2004. The U.S. yield is 37.1 bushels per acre, 3.5 bushels below the August 1 forecast, and down 6.1 bushels from the record yield set in 2004. Barley production is estimated at 212 million bushels, down 10 percent from the August 1 forecast and down 24 percent from last year's estimate. Average yield per acre, at 64.8 bushels, is 3.4 bushels below August and 4.8 bushels below 2004. The area harvested for grain is estimated at 3.28 million acres, 19 percent less than a year ago. Harvested area is the smallest since 1890 and production is the lowest since 1936, but the average yield is the second highest on record. Oat production is estimated at 115 million bushels, 10 percent below the August forecast and 1 percent below last year's 116 million bushels. The estimated yield of 63.1 bushels per acre is down 1.6 bushels from the August 1 forecast and from 2004. Harvested area is 1.82 million acres, up 2 percent from last year.

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